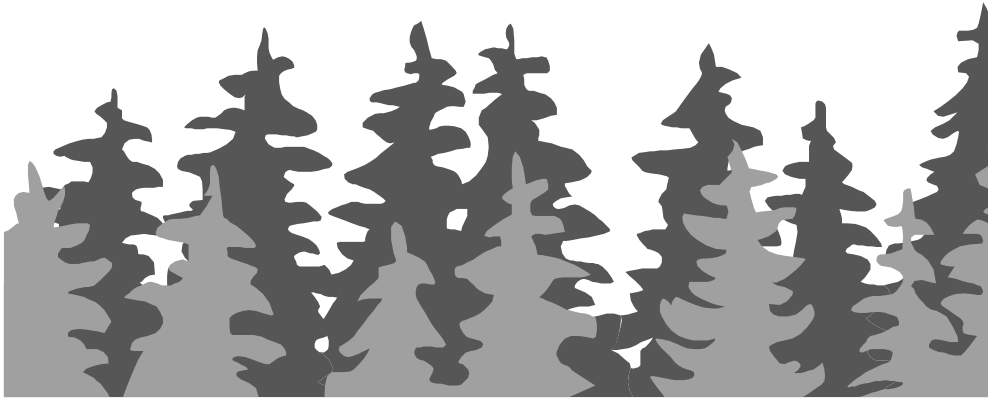


March 2000
Volume 2, Issue 3

LAKE TAHOE FOREST
HEALTH CONSENSUS GROUP

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February 15, 2000 FHCG
Meeting
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LAKE TAHOE BASIN FOREST HEALTH CONSENSUS GROUP MINUTES

Welcome to the Lake
Tahoe Basin Forest Health
Consensus Group newsletter.
Our next monthly meeting
will be on March 21, 2000.
We will meet at the Tahoe
Regional Planning Agency
office in Round Hill,
Nevada. If you need
information on the
meeting or the Forest
Health Group, please
contact Mary Powell at
(775) 588-4547, ext 267

*The FHCG also has a Web page
where present and past
newsletters can be located:*

URL: <http://ceres.ca.gov/trpa>

*The FHCG Web page is being
updated. Please be patient. We
are aware that some linkages are
not correct.*

March 21, 2000 Meeting Agenda

1. Approval of minutes
2. LSOG Ordinance Review
Strategy Discussion
Bring General Forest Forward
3. Timeline
4. DFPZ Discussion on
consistency with Forest
Service Policy and DFC –
Scott Parsons, Steve
Harcourt, Rex Harold
5. DFC Urban and Interface –
Jon Hoefer
6. Matrix review by Others\1st
Consensus Reading (new
version to be done by Mary
Powell – April meeting)
7. EMS Interface
8. Steve Chilton – Vegetation
Thresholds

10:00AM – Interim Regulation
Review Speaker – Craig Thomas,
Conservation Staff, Sierra Nevada
Forest Protection Campaign

February 15, 2000 Meeting Agenda and Subsequent Minutes

Approval of Minutes

Regulation Review Speaker –
Robert Heald

DFPZ – Reports

EIP Updates – Steve Chilton

Matrix – Jon Hoefer/Dave
Roberts

Member Reports – Additional
BAG Comments, New LSOG
Proposed Policy

Member Reports

Bin Items

Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January
meeting were approved as written
by Mary Powell. In the January
minutes, please correct your copy
to reflect John Helms title is
Professor of Silviculture.

Regulation Review Speaker – Robert (Bob) Heald

Robert Heald, Director for the
Center for Forestry at UC
Berkeley, was our guest speaker.
Bob is also a Registered
Professional Forester.

Highlights of his discussion
included:

◆ Robert Heald's presentation
included a slide show, which
depicted the work that they have
done at the Blodgett Forest

Research Facility. They have
conducted research at this facility
which involved the demonstration
of alternative management styles.
Robert also encouraged the group
to ask questions or offer
comments on his discussion of
management styles and how they
relate to sustainable development
of larger trees.

◆ Slides were shown to depict
some of the details of how to
develop sustainable structures,
including single tree selection and
small group selection.

◆ Robert's presentation
concentrated on alternative
management styles with a focus
on group selection from Blodgett
Forest Research Station. The
Blodgett forest is typical of the
west side with mixed conifer and
gentle slopes.

◆ For an even aged forest to be
sustainable over long term, you
have to have portions of that
forest that are characteristic of
very old, middle aged and very
young trees. You can manage
any of those stages at any given
time, but at some point you have
to develop trees old enough to
replace themselves or provide
seed or habitat characteristics that
are suitable for all species.

◆ Fire is one of the believed
natural elements of disturbance in
a forest that remove portions of
the forest to provide regeneration
space.

◆ A question was raised as to
what Robert meant by the word
"sustainable" in his presentation.
"Sustainable" could be used in
terms of wood production, or in
terms of structure and
composition of that stand.

◆ Robert cannot describe the
structure of any single stand that
will meet the needs of every

species of wildlife, plus have elements such as clean water, ability to grow wood, etc. *Diversity* is the name of the game.

◆ Robert explained the reason we started group selection was out of an unsubstantiated belief that we would not be able to regenerate ponderosa pine in this mixed-aged forest. That was not the case.

◆ Robert mentioned they had difficulty regenerating oak. The oak trees regenerate but do not grow in high-density stands. They had to modify the forest structure in order for this to happen. Another problem was with Cedar. It regenerates very well but doesn't grow rapidly in high-density stands.

◆ Robert believes you cannot increase the density enough to get a great number of large trees in a stand and still keep it sustainable.

◆ The difference between gross selection and even age is the scale of the regeneration.

◆ A question was asked as to what Robert's short term "desirable" management technique would be. He said it would be a trade off between creating a structure that is sustainable and boosting what element of the structure you find missing. He is in favor of some thinning from below and some canopy gaps.

◆ Any forest structure that includes stands that have individual elements that are capable of resisting high heat and flames survive longer. Individual trees that survive fire the best are characteristic of big, old, thick bark trees with the crowns perched way up high. In addition, it may help to build a fuel bed underneath it that is very diverse.

◆ Despite the best models and years of study, there is not a single option for the Sierra Nevada that the forest service has presented that reduces wildfire stand level losses by more than 10% (based on the next 30 years). The Forest Service does not know of a model that would allow the forest to be self-sustaining relative to reductions in stand level wildfire losses.

◆ If, for instance, when you are looking at a stand and you want to make 3 one-acre gaps and the only place to make the 3 one-acre gaps included cutting a 30 inch tree right in the middle of it, they would have to go ahead and cut it. This would be necessary in order to achieve the gaps needed for regeneration, not for 30 inch trees.

◆ When the group asked Robert his personal views regarding the 30-inch regulation he thought it was probably not the best way to manage a forest. The problem with regulations is that is very difficult to translate "intent" into "action". If you could get landowners to agree (or consense) that they would manage their lands to have a significant component of bigger, older trees, then you could have a way out of an absolute prohibition which would achieve the same affect.

◆ On a sidenote, Robert wanted to remind the group that in the California Forest Practice Regulations there is a special exemption for Lake Tahoe for "dead, dying and diseased". This expires in December of this year. If you want this to continue, you must ask the State Board of Forestry of California to continue it within two months or they will not have the appropriate timeframe to go through the

administrative process to reestablish it.

If you would like copies of Robert Heald's complete presentation with associated data, please contact Mary Powell at TRPA.



Additional BAG Comments – Rex Harold (Nevada State Lands)

The Wildlife Biologists that attended the Biological Advisory Group (BAG) meeting on January 19, 2000 commented that the wildlife conditions were loosely written enough to have broad coverage of their interest and agreed to the "wildlife conditions" in the current draft of DFC for the Urban Interface Zone. Other concerns brought up

by the Biological Advisory Group included:

1. Review interface with a high-risk assessment for likely wildfire before treatment is prescribed.
2. Plan treatment to skirt Late Successional – Old Growth areas to protect the natural features and qualities.
3. Coordinate interface treatment with wildlife habitat maps before prescription treatment is finalized.
4. Identify threatened and endangered habitat and modify interface treatment prescription to minimize disturbance.

The above is to be considered along with the comments made by Shane Romsos for the BAG Committee that was in the January FHCG newsletter.

Late Successional Old Growth Policy (LSOG) – Draft by Jon Hoefer

Jon Hoefer provided the group with a draft of an LSOG Policy for the group to review. For future reference, this is considered draft #1 dated February 15, 2000:

“Firstly, the date for the renewal of the interim regulation policy is coming up quickly. We have heard a lot of different speakers discussing this, but the 30” regulation may not work, so below is a possible revision to the current policy.

Late Successional Old Growth Policy

GOAL:

To restore the forests of the Lake Tahoe Basin to pre-settlement conditions when late Successional old growth (LSOG) stands were more prevalent than at present.

OBJECTIVE:

Progressively increase the acreage of LSOG stands through preservation and management until they approximate the amount present prior to when timber harvesting began in the late 1800’s. That amount is currently estimated to have been about 55% of the forested area. The objective will apply to those portions of the Lake Tahoe region that are not urbanized or otherwise restricted by land use from contributing to the goal. Public land in the General Forest Zone, the Natural Processes Emphasized Zone and the Natural Processes Required Zone will be managed for this objective. Portions of other zones may also be selected as suitable for LSOG management. Privately owned land determined by biological assessment as critical for the management of LSOG dependent species will also be managed for this objective. Other privately owned land may be managed for

this objective when desired by the landowner.

POLICIES:

1. Stands 2 areas or larger in size that have old growth characteristics will be protected from activities that are apt to diminish the quality of LSOG. Only management activities that will maintain or enhance the quality of the LSOG will be prescribed.
2. All stands not determined to be LSOG at the present time will be managed so as to systematically progress toward LSOG as rapidly as possible. Only vegetation management activities will be prescribed for these stands that assure progression toward LSOG. When fire is prescribed as an activity of choice by land managers, the risk of fire intensity great enough to incur stand replacement will be anticipated. Areas where stand replacement occurs as a result of fire, or other natural destructive forces, will be considered as the primary means of establishing early successional stages in the forest.
3. In lieu of stand specific prescriptions that demonstrate that LSOG can be achieved over the shortest duration, stand stocking, as measured by basal area or stem count, will be maintained in the largest trees present on the site. Tree removal, if any, will be to enhance the health and vigor of these larger trees. Basal area and stem count will be maintained at the high end of the desired

range rather than at the minimum.

4. All trees considered as large for the site based upon species, timber type and site class will be retained whether living or dead. Until large for the site is specifically defined, all 30" d.b.h. and larger trees, living dying or dead, will be preserved unless determined to pose an unacceptable hazard to the safety of people and property.
5. Desired level of dead tree stocking will be defined for each stand. If the existing stocking of dead trees is at or below the minimum standard, management prescriptions will consider means for enhancing dead tree stocking.
6. Silvicultural systems appropriate for use to achieve LSOG are under thinning, single tree selection and group selection.
7. Incentives will be sought to reimburse private land owners for economic losses incurred when land is committed to the LSOG objective. Incentives could consist of public land purchase, public conservation easements, tax relief, etc.

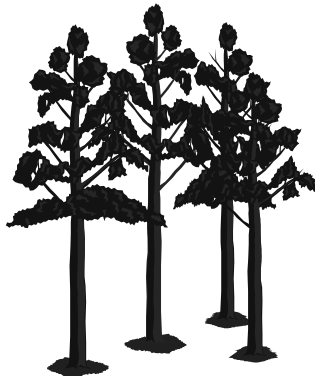
LARGE TREE RETENTION POLICY

POLICY:

In the Urban Zone, Urban Interface Zone and Recreation Zone, large trees will be preserved to the extent possible. They will not be arbitrarily removed unless they present an unacceptable hazard to property

or life. Removal of large hazard trees may be permitted if other methods to render them reasonably safe is determined not feasible. Other methods to be considered include removal of dead or weak tops, removing of weakened or dead limbs, reducing canopy density through pruning of the limbs, use of structural supports like cementing of butt cavities.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the ordinance, the FHCG members agreed that their recommendation, which will be presented to the Governing Board by Steve Chilton, would be to extend the interim ordinance review date from May 2000 to August 2000.



Matrix Packet Review – Jon Hoefler

The history of the Matrix was first discussed. The matrix packet was generated by Dave Roberts with the League to Save Lake Tahoe as an exercise in order to

assimilate important documents together in the form of a “packet” so that we could see what the group has accomplished. It also aids new members in getting up to speed on the progress of the FHCG.

One of the key elements in the packet was the “matrix”. A lot of discussions on the practices that should or should not be used in certain parts of the basin was thoroughly discussed at the time. Jon Hoefler would like to have the matrix consensed on for closure, since this really is part of the forest plan. Mary Powell was assigned to recreate the matrix so that it is easier to read.

This “matrix” is simply a reference tool in which people can utilize. It is not cast in concrete, just guidance for consideration in different zones.

After reviewing the matrix again, some members did not agree with where some of the original “+” and “-” were in some of the line items. The “Natural Processes Emphasized” and the “Natural Processes Required” columns created some confusion for some.

The Forest Service will take a look at the present matrix so that they can make some comments at the March meeting.

In summary, if we consense on the matrix next month, the group could:

- use it in our discussions of EMS and DFPZ
- include in the packet of consensed upon products of FHCG
- use for general decision making

Member Reports

EIP Update – Steve Chilton (TRPA)

The Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) is a basin-wide program, with the total bill approximately 900 million dollars.

Staff members from TRPA, Lake Tahoe Water Quality Coalition, Transportation Coalition, etc. went to Washington DC last week and gave testimony on resources funding for EIP. They are asking for 6 million next year, which would be spread across several different projects. Congressional support from both States looks good, which does not happen that often for this kind of appropriation request. They are still working on the “Regional Revenue Generation Program” which is the local match to the 900 million (300 million local, 300 million federal and 300 million state). Survey and study work is being examined on how to raise 300 million from local sources. Task forces have been formalized, from a project standpoint, to get project updates for the Environmental Improvement Program and new start and completion dates.

Steve asked for the Agency Representatives that are present at this meeting to make sure they have contacted TRPA staff in order to possibly work with them to get EIP projects. If they have

not contacted anyone, please let him know so that they can get the process going.

Steve also reminded the group that the FHCG is the working group for vegetation for EIP, along with the threshold studies.

Steve encouraged the group to be involved with the list of EIP projects so that we are knowledgeable of what is going to happen in the plan in the next ten years.

The 300 million local match is not necessarily all dollars. Many people who live here in the basin have already met their match by either retrofitting their property, contributing through building fees, mitigation projects, etc.

They are going to be doing some budget proposal requests in the next 3-4 months for both states in order to do study work. Hopefully this group will generate some of the ideas.

Lastly, the FHCG group received \$50,000 last year for vegetation studies. This was all contracted out for work, which included JoAnn Fites work, GIS work that involves mapping, etc. He would like to get another \$50,000 this year to continue important work.



Upcoming Meetings and Events

Forest Health Consensus Group (FHCG) meeting

March 21, 2000

9:30AM

The meeting will be held at the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency office in Roundhill, Nevada. The monthly meeting is held every third Tuesday of the month at TRPA. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Powell, FHCG Coordinator, at (775) 588-4547.

Tahoe Regreen Meeting

April 12, 2000

Incline Village General Improvement District

9-12pm and 1-4pm

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Marie Hagen, Regreen Coordinator, at (530) 573-2735.

Association of Natural Resource Extension Professional Meeting

May 17, 2000

1-5 pm

FIELD TRIP PLAN:

1:00pm: Meet at Harrahs, buses leave for Kingsbury Grade

En route to Nevada State Lands projects, Rex Harold and possibly a representative from Incline

Village will discuss their programs. Rex Harold discusses projects at site.

1:45 pm: Buses leave Kingsbury Grade for Angora Highlands

En route Jon Hoefer and Steve Chilton will discuss the Forest Health Consensus Group activities. At sites, Steve Harcourt explains projects.

3:15 pm: Buses leave Angora Highlands for Upper Truckee Road, drive-by Angora Creek

En route to Tahoe Re-Green sites Chris Knopp discusses the Tahoe Watershed Assessment. At sites, Steve Harcourt explains projects.

4:00pm: Buses leave Upper Truckee Road for Pioneer Timber Sale

En route to Pioneer Dave Roberts discusses the League's programs. At the sale, Angela Parker and Rick Kentz discuss the project.

4:45pm: Buses depart for Harrahs

En route, someone from Tahoe Conservancy can discuss its program.

Bin Items

1. What is the possibility of touring the Park Cattle Company's forest health restoration project?
2. Detailed maps of urban areas are requested: *It will be recreated sometime in the future by David Atkins (per Steve Chilton)*
3. TRPA matrix – will be recreated by Mary Powell – to be passed out at either the

March or April FHCG Meeting

4. Plan a future retreat to Blodgett Forest
5. Status of responses to letter sent out to outside agencies requesting their input on the use of DFPZ: *Still awaiting Tahoe Conservancy and Fire Department responses*

FHCG Meeting Attendees

The attendees at the February FHCG Meeting were: Rex Harold, Mary Powell, Shawn Espinosa, Dave Roberts, Marge Sill, Scott Parsons, Angela Parker, Maribeth Gutafson, Shirley Taylor, J.B. Lekumberry, Tim Rochelle, Jay Howard, Jon Hoefer, Trudy Craven, Robert Heald, Steve Lewis, Steve Chilton, Mary Jo Elpers, Steve Cannon, Richard Harris, Progressive Forestry Representative

Member Reports

Defensible Fuel Profile Zones (DFPZs) – Scott Parsons (Forest Service)

Last month several agencies were requested to either bring in or fax a copy of their definition of DFPZ. Attached is a report by Scott Parsons with the Forest Service. *(if you would like a copy of his report, please contact Mary Powell at TRPA.)*

The group was impressed by the Forest Service paper on DFPZ and how it was presented.

A quick review of both Rex Harold's and Steve Harcourt's definition of DFPZ was done by the group. In Steve's paper, the group wanted clarification of his "Definition of DFPZ", along with concerns over 75% crown closure. It was requested that they both receive a copy of Scott Parson's definition of DFPZ for their comments. Subsequent to the meeting, Mary Powell faxed over Mr. Parsons paper to both Rex Harold and Steve Harcourt for comments.

Since the meeting, Rex Harold with the Nevada State Lands reviewed the paper from the Forest Service. His comments will be reflected in the next month's minutes.

Lake Tahoe Basin Forest Health
Consensus Group
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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